

book has the Lord God given them such power that we poor fellows should in fine weather labour for nothing on their farms, and in rainy weather see the fruit of our bloody sweat perish in the fields ? God in His mercy will surely not tolerate this cruel Babylonish captivity, that we poor creatures should be driven like slaves to mow and hoe their meadows, to plough their fields, to sow the flax in them, and then pull it up again, to ripple, ret, break, wash, spin it. . . . How about the sporting folk, the gamblers and the revellers, who stuff themselves fuller than vomiting dogs ? And for all this we have to pay them taxes, tithes, and rent, and they care not a hang if the poor man has to go without his bread and salt and lard, and his wife and poor little untaught children too. How about the labourers and their privileges? Yea, cursed be these robbers and cormorants. What are they about, these tyrants and extortioners, who themselves appropriate the taxes, tolls, and money they have squeezed out of us, and turn to such scandalous, abominable uses what ought to go into the general treasury, and serve for the good of the country ? And as to resistance, let no one dare to breathe a murmur against it all, or he will be popped on the block and beheaded and quartered like a rascal guilty of treason ; he will find less pity than a raging mad dog. Has God indeed given them such power? In what chapter, then, is it written ? Yea, their power is from God, but only inasmuch as they are the devil's mercenaries, and Satan is their captain. Yea, they are verily avowed enemies of their country. What about those who claim a right of property over the bodies of others? Accursed be their unchristian, heathenish practices. What martyrs do they not make of us poor people. Our souls are in bondage to the spiritual lords, and our bodies to the secular ones/

But let the tyrants beware, the day of God's grace has come. The piteous cry of the labourers has entered into the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth, and He has graciously inclined unto them. . . . " For that a province or a community has the right to depose its wicked overlords, I will prove by thirteen sayings out of the divine jurisprudence, which the hellish Porte, with all its crew of knights, cannot upset But if they say such deposing of those in power is the business